(a) whether there has been a decline in the small savings collections during 1991;

(b) if so, the extent of decline;

(c) whether it has led to a fall in the share of States and if so, the extent thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government had appointed a Committee to look into the reasons for improving the same;

(e) if so, the composition of the committee;

(f) whether this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government, if so, when; and

(g) the salient features of the suggestions made by the Committee in its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The net collections in small savings during April to December, 1991 show a decline of 32.8% over the net collections during April to December, 1990.

(c) Yes, Sir. The statewise extent of the shortfall will be known after the close of the financial year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Committee was headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Member, Planning Commission. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Additional Secretary (Budget), Department of Economic Affairs, a representative of Department of Posts, Finance Secretaries of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were members of the Committee.

(f) The Committee has submitted its report in February, 1992.

(g) The Committee has suggested increase in interest rates on certain small savings instruments and extensio of fiscal concessions.

Import of Cloves and Cassia

1707. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations regardig import of cloves and cassia as a restricted items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various quarters for continiouce of the import of cloves and cassia against specific licences and for not permitting the import of these itmes against Eximscrips.

(c) Government have announced structural changes to the Import & Export Policy vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 278-ITC (PN)/90-93 dated 29.2.92 and the items cloves and cassia, being covered by the negative list continue to be available for import against specific licences as hitherto. Copies of the aforesaid Public Notice are abatable in the Parliament library.

Currency Notes

1708. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: